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Agenda item 115

Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Denisa **Hutănová** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 3rd and 33rd meetings, on 6 October and 22 December 2004. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/59/SR.3 and 33).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2003;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/59/349);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the programme of work of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2004 (A/59/75);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on a preliminary review of its statute and working methods (A/58/343);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/59/34).

04-65950 (E) 221204

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the in-depth review of its statute and working methods (A/58/343/Add.1 and 2).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.24

4. At the 33rd meeting, on 22 December 2004, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit" (A/C.5/59/L.24), which was submitted by the representative of South Africa on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the coordinator of the informal consultations and Vice-Chairman of the Committee made oral corrections to the text of the draft resolution.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.24 without a vote (see para. 8).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, as orally corrected, statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Cuba and Nigeria.

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular resolutions 31/192 of 22 December 1976, 50/233 of 7 June 1996, 54/16 of 29 October 1999, 55/230 of 23 December 2000, 56/245 of 24 December 2001, 57/284 A and B of 20 December 2002 and 58/286 of 8 April 2004,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2003,[1] the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the programme of work of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2004[2] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit,[3]

Noting with appreciation the recent adoption by the Joint Inspection Unit of internal working procedures and mechanisms to complement its standards and guidelines, which are aimed at improving the quality and impact of the Unit's activities,

Recognizing that in order for the Unit to further improve its effectiveness, the provisions of the statute of the Unit should be fully implemented,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2003;[1]

2. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the programme of work of the Unit for 2004;[2]

3. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Unit;[3]

4. *Decides* to discontinue the requirement for the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Unit;

5. *Considers* that the implementation in full of the provisions of the statute of the Unit should contribute to the enhancement of its role and an increase in the effectiveness of its activities;

6. *Urges* Member States requested to propose candidates for membership of the Unit to strictly adhere to the qualifications and experience outlined in paragraph 1 of article 2 of the statute;

7. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that candidates have experience in at least one of the fields, illustrated as follows: oversight, audit, inspection, investigation, evaluation, finance, project evaluation, programme evaluation, human resources management, management, public administration, monitoring and/or

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/59/34).
[2] A/59/75.
[3] A/59/349.

programme performance, as well as knowledge of the United Nations system and its role in international relations;

8. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to ensure the full implementation of the procedures and mechanisms for reviewing the qualifications of proposed candidates as outlined in paragraph 2 of article 3 of the statute of the Unit, including through joint consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination,[4] as well as drawing, as appropriate, on relevant expertise from expert and intergovernmental bodies concerned with budgetary and human resources matters, and through consultations with the States concerned, after which the President of the Assembly would submit the list of such candidates to the Assembly for appointment;

9. *Also invites* the President of the General Assembly to review the procedures followed by the Assembly for the appointment of inspectors, with a view to enhancing the efficiency of the application of paragraph 2 of article 3 of the statute, bearing in mind the procedures followed for the selection of members of other expert bodies and to report to the Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixtieth session for its decision, as appropriate;

10. *Reaffirms* paragraph 2 of article 11 of the statute of the Unit, and requests that the Unit, as a whole, also take responsibility in the exercise of its collective wisdom with regard to all its reports, notes and recommendations, in order to improve the effectiveness of the Unit;

11. *Re-emphasizes* paragraph 9 of its resolution 56/245;

12. *Decides* that the Unit shall perform its functions and responsibilities strictly in accordance with the provisions of its statute;

13. *Also decides* that the programme of work of the Unit shall be collectively approved, providing the rationale for choice as well as the relevance of the envisaged outcome to improving management and methods and promoting greater coordination between organizations;

14. *Affirms* that, in the implementation of article 18 of the statute of the Unit, the Chair shall be responsible for overseeing the Unit's programme of work, including, in the event of disagreement, the division of assignments, and for enforcing the internal working procedures of the Unit to ensure, through collective responsibility, the quality of its reports;

15. *Welcomes* the peer review system established by the Unit, and decides that if, in the opinion of the majority of the inspectors, the report in question does not meet the established quality standards, the Chair shall reflect such views and the reasons therefore in the introduction to the report;

16. *Emphasizes* the desirability of continuity in the term of office of the Chair and Vice-Chair, and calls upon the Unit to bear this in mind in implementing article 18 of the statute, so as to re-elect the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman for overlapping terms, thereby balancing the need for institutional memory and reasonable rotation;

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[4] Formerly known as the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

17. *Also emphasizes* the need to assess resource management from a system-wide perspective, including the contribution of, and coordination between, organizations;

18. *Decides* that the Unit shall mainly focus on identifying means to improve management and to ensure that optimum use is made of available resources, as stipulated in paragraphs 1 to 3 of article 5 of the statute, and to this end the Unit will set out management criteria and methods for assessment of management performance and effectiveness relevant to participating organizations;

19. *Also decides* that the Unit shall include in its annual reports, information on implementation and the results achieved by organizations in respect of their follow-up to the recommendations of the Unit, as endorsed by their legislative bodies, and the arrangements put in place by participating organizations for reporting thereon;

20. *Further decides* that the Unit, as part of its focus on management issues, should assess the development and application in participating organizations of the principle of accountability in its relevant reports;

21. *Decides* that the Unit shall undertake inspections with a sharp focus on the areas stipulated in paragraphs 1 to 3 of article 5 of the statute, bearing in mind paragraphs 18 and 20 above;

22. *Invites* the Committee for Programme and Coordination, in performing its programmatic, coordination, monitoring and evaluation functions, as contained in its mandate, to consider relevant reports of the Unit;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the staff recruited according to article 19 of the statute fully meet the qualifications and have proved experience in specific areas required to assist the Unit in the fulfilment of its functions, namely, inspection, investigation and evaluation;

24. *Reaffirms* that the working languages of the General Assembly are those of the Unit, in application of article 51 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, and also reaffirms that the working languages of the Secretariat of the United Nations are those of the secretariat of the Unit, in application of Assembly resolution 2 (I) of 1 February 1946;

25. *Decides* to continue providing translation in all official languages for the reports of the Unit and also to provide interpretation, as necessary, within existing resources;

26. *Reaffirms* its request to the Secretariat of the United Nations and all participating organizations to facilitate the work of the Unit, including, in particular, through offering full access to all relevant information, as required by the Unit;

27. *Also reaffirms* its request to the executive heads of the participating organizations that have not yet done so to take the steps necessary to facilitate the consideration of and action on the system of follow-up to the reports of the Unit, and invites the legislative organs concerned to consider the system and take action in that regard;

28. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure respect for the separate and distinct roles and functions of external and internal oversight mechanisms and also to strengthen the external oversight mechanisms;

29. *Decides* to consider the implementation of the provisions of the present resolution, which are aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the Unit, at its sixty-first session.

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United Nations common system

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Denisa **Hůtănová** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "United Nations common system" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 14th, 17th and 33rd meetings, on 27 and 29 October and on 22 December 2004. Comments and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/59/SR.14, 17 and 33).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2004;[1]

(b) Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly concerning the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2004 (A/59/429);

(c) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the statement submitted by the Secretary-General concerning the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2004 (A/59/522);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 30* (A/59/30) (Vols. I and II).

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(d) Note by the Secretariat submitting the report of the Panel on the Strengthening of the International Civil Service (A/59/153);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General on the findings and recommendations of the Panel on the Strengthening of the International Civil Service (A/59/399).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.26

4. At its 33rd meeting, on 22 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission" (A/C.5/59/L.26), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of India.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of India pointed out that for technical reasons the words "and the note by the Secretary-General on the findings and recommendations of the Panel" had been inserted in the operative paragraph under the heading "Strengthening of the International Civil Service" and that the annex appended to the draft resolution, which had been appended to the resolution by error, should be deleted.

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Canada, Cuba and Nigeria.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.26 as orally corrected, without a vote (see para. 9).

8. The recommendation of the Fifth Committee on the statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission (A/59/429) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/59/522) will be contained in the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 108, Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/59/448/Add.2).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

9. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/216 of 18 December 1996, 52/216 of 22 December 1997, 53/209 of 18 December 1998, 55/223 of 23 December 2000, 56/244 of 20 December 2001, 57/285 of 20 December 2002 and 58/251 of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2004,[1] the note by the Secretariat submitting the report of the Panel on the Strengthening of the International Civil Service[2] and the note by the Secretary-General on the findings and recommendations of the Panel,[3]

Reaffirming its commitment to a single, unified United Nations common system as the cornerstone for the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of the United Nations common system,

Convinced that the common system constitutes the best instrument through which to secure staff with the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity for the international civil service, as stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the statute of the Commission and the central role of the Commission and the General Assembly in the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of the United Nations common system,

Takes note of the report of the Commission for 2004;[1]

I
Conditions of service applicable to both categories of staff

A. Review of the pay and benefits system

1. *Notes* the information provided on the pilot study on broad banding and pay-for-performance;[4]

2. *Also notes* that if all three models of the pay-for-performance system were not tested, this could diminish the value of the pilot project and requests the Commission to keep this in mind in its further consideration of the issue, and encourages volunteering organizations to test all three models;

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 30* (A/59/30), vols. I and II.

[2] A/59/153.

[3] A/59/399.

[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 30* (A/59/30), vol. I.

3. *Recognizes* that an effective and credible performance appraisal system is the key for the possible introduction of a pay-for-performance system, and requests the Commission to ensure that the performance appraisal systems in volunteer organizations are developed, in full consultation with staff members, and are clear, effective and credible for all the parties concerned, including Member States;

4. *Looks forward* to receiving from the Commission annual updates on the pilot studies on broad banding and pay-for-performance;

5. *Decides* that no new strategy on pilot projects in broad banding or pay-for-performance should be undertaken until the General Assembly has had an opportunity to review the results of the pilot study on broad banding and pay-for-performance being conducted by the Commission;

6. *Requests* the Commission to report on the contemporary rationale for separate salary scales for single staff and those with dependants in the context of its report on pay and benefits review;

B. Contractual arrangements

Recalling section I.A, paragraph 4 of its resolution 57/285 of 20 December 2002,

Notes the intention of the Commission to provide a final report on contractual arrangements at its sixtieth session;

C. Mobility and hardship allowance

Recalling section VI of its resolution 51/216 of 18 December 1996, section I.C of its resolution 55/223 of 23 December 2000, and section II.A, paragraph 7 of its resolution 57/285 of 20 December 2002,

1. *Recognizes* the work undertaken by the Commission in reviewing the current mobility and hardship scheme in the context of the pay and benefits review;

2. *Takes note* of the decision taken by the Commission in paragraph 137 of its report;[4]

D. Hazard pay

Recalling sections I.D of its resolutions 57/285 of 20 December 2002 and 58/251 of 23 December 2003,

Takes note of the decision of the Commission contained in paragraph 147 of its report;[4]

E. Review of the level of the education grant

Recalling section IV of its resolution 51/216 of 18 December 1996, section III.A of its resolution 52/216 of 22 December 1997 and section I.E of its resolution 57/285 of 20 December 2002,

1. *Approves* the increases in the maximum reimbursement levels for fifteen countries, as well as other recommendations in respect of the reimbursement of expenses under the education grant, as recommended by the Commission in paragraph 166 (a) to (f) of its report;[4]

2. *Reiterates* its request to the organizations of the common system to bring the matter of the payment of the education grant to staff members living in their own countries to the attention of their governing bodies with a view to harmonizing the staff rules and regulations along the lines of those of the United Nations and invites governing bodies to take the relevant actions;

3. *Requests* the Commission to inform the General Assembly at its sixtieth session as to the practices of other relevant civil services and international organizations concerning the provision of education grants;

F. Review of pensionable remuneration

Recalling section II, paragraph 6, of its resolution 51/217 of 18 December 1996,

Takes note of the decision of the Commission contained in paragraph 181 of its annual report;[4]

G. Review of allowances

1. *Requests* the Commission, in reviewing and modernizing the system of grants and allowances, to attach priority to enhancing transparency and administrative simplicity;

2. *Also requests* the Commission to inform the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on which entities it uses as comparators for the determination of entitlements such as leave and allowances, and to advise the Assembly on the merits and disadvantages of applying as a point of departure the practices of the civil service of the country used as comparator for salary purposes;

H. Common scale of staff assessment

Recalling its resolution 51/217 of 18 December 1996;

Takes note of the decision of the Commission contained in paragraph 188 of its annual report;[4]

I. Paternity leave

Takes note of the decision contained in paragraph 211 of the report of the Commission and confirms its recommendations to have paternity leave implemented throughout the common system within the parameters set forth in its report;[4]

II
Conditions of service of staff

A. Examination of the Noblemaire principle and its application

Recalling its resolutions 44/198 of 21 December 1989 and other relevant resolutions,

1. *Reaffirms* the continued application of the Noblemaire principle;

2. *Also reaffirms* the need to continue to ensure the competitiveness of the conditions of service of the United Nations common system;

3. *Takes note* of the decision of the Commission contained in paragraph 273 of its annual report;[4]

B. Grade equivalencies between the United States federal civil service and the United Nations common system

Recalling section I.A of its resolution 50/208 of 23 December 1995, section II.B of its resolution 55/223 of 23 December 2000, and section I.A, paragraph 7 of its resolution 57/285 of 20 December 2002,

1. *Takes note* of the decision of the Commission contained in paragraph 276 of its annual report;[4]

2. *Requests* the Commission to include the review of grade equivalency in the study to determine the highest paid civil service on its work programme for 2005-2006;

C. Evolution of the margin

Recalling section I.B of its resolution 51/216 of 22 December 1997 and the standing mandate from the General Assembly, in which the International Civil Service Commission is requested to continue its review of the relationship between the net remuneration of the United Nations staff in the Professional and higher categories in New York and that of the comparator civil service (the United States federal civil service) employees in comparable positions in Washington, D.C. (referred to as "the margin"),

1. *Notes* that the margin between net remuneration of the United Nations staff in grades P-1 to D-2 in New York and that of officials in comparable positions in the United States federal civil service in Washington, D.C. for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2004 is 110.3, as shown in annex V to the report of the Commission;[4]

2. *Reaffirms* that the range of 110 to 120 for the margin between the net remuneration of officials in the Professional and higher categories of the United Nations in New York and the officials in comparable positions in the comparator civil service should continue to apply, on the understanding that the margin would be maintained at a level around the desirable midpoint of 115 over a period of time;

D. Base/floor salary scale

Recalling its resolution 44/198 of 21 December 1989, by which it established a floor net salary level for staff in the Professional and higher categories by reference to the corresponding base net salary levels of officials in comparable positions serving at the base city of the comparator civil service (the United States federal civil service),

Approves, with effect from 1 January 2005, as recommended by the Commission, the revised base scale of gross and net salaries for staff in the Professional and higher categories, as contained in annex VI to the report;[4]

E. Review of the level of children's and secondary dependant's allowances

Recalling section II.F of its resolution 47/216 of 23 December 1992,

Approves the recommendations of the Commission contained in paragraph 244 of the annual report;[4]

III

A. Senior Management Service

Recalling section I.A, paragraphs 5 and 6 of its resolution 57/285 of 20 December 2002,

1. *Recalls* that in paragraph 5 of its resolution 57/285 of 20 December 2002, it requested the Commission to review the proposal for the introduction of the Senior Management Service as described in paragraph 80[5] in view of its intention to consider the question at its fifty-eighth session;

2. *Also recalls* that the Commission requested the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to keep it informed and to report appropriately about the related developmental work proceeding under the auspices of the Board;

3. *Further recalls* its decision 55/488 of 7 December 2001;

4. *Reaffirms* articles 9 and 10 of the statute of the International Civil Service Commission;

5. *Recognizes* that measures to improve management capacity and performance among senior staff are highly desirable;

6. *Affirms* that the Commission is the only body responsible for recommending to the General Assembly the establishment of a separate category of staff for the common system;

7. *Requests* the Commission to continue to monitor the project regarding the improvement of management capacity and performance among senior staff by the United Nations Chief Executives Board, and to advise and make recommendations to the Assembly as appropriate;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Chief Executives Board, to redesignate the Senior Management Service to reflect its character as a set of collaborative efforts to enhance the managerial capacity and performance of senior staff by respective executive heads and to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, clarifying the scope and content of such efforts, for consideration and action if it deems necessary;

B. Gender balance in the United Nations system

1. *Notes with concern*, as pointed out by the Commission with regard to the organizations of the United Nations common system, that the rate of advancement of women had slowed over the years and that only limited progress had been made;

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[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 30* (A/57/30).

2. *Takes note* of the decision of the Commission in paragraph 297 of its report, and requests it to provide information on the outcome of its consideration of the report on further progress in this field;

IV
Strengthening of the International Civil Service

Decides to revert to the consideration of the report of the Panel on the Strengthening of the International Civil Service and the recommendations therein[2] and the note by the Secretary-General on the findings and recommendations of the Panel[3] during the first part of its resumed fifty-ninth session.

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Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Denisa **Hutănová** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 18th, 19th, 20th, 22nd, 23rd and 33rd meetings, on 1, 3, 4, 9 and 11 November and on 22 December 2004. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/59/SR.18, 19, 20, 22, 23 and 33).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/59/359);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 (A/58/364);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its audit of the regional commissions (A/58/785);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of the structure and operations of the United Nations information centres (A/57/747 and Corr.1).

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II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.5/59/L.17 and A/C.5/59/L.18

4. At its 33rd meeting, on 22 December, the Committee had before it two draft resolutions, entitled "Reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services" (A/C.5/59/L.17) and "Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services" (A/C.5/59/L.18), which were submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Nigeria.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolutions A/C.5/59/L.17 (draft resolution I) and A/C.5/59/L.18 (draft resolution II) without a vote (see para. 7).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolutions, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of Australia (on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand), the United States of America, the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), Switzerland, Japan, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, India and Turkey.

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994 and 54/244 of 23 December 1999,

Recalling also its resolutions 56/246 of 24 December 2001 and 58/101 B of 9 December 2003,

Having considered the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003[1] and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of the structure and operations of United Nations information centres,[2]

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

2. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;[1]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Office of Internal Oversight Services continues to provide internal oversight of the entire claims process of the United Nations Compensation Commission and to report regularly thereon in the context of the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

4. *Recalls* rule 1.2 of the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to provide information to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session in the context of its consideration of matters related to procurement reform on actions taken to prevent recurrence of incidents of possible conflict of interest and inappropriate procurement practices;

5. *Notes* the description of the mission of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, as outlined in its annual report, and in this regard stresses that the mission of the Office should be in full conformity with its mandate, as approved in its resolution 48/218 B;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees develops and utilizes comprehensive policy guidelines for the selection and management of consultants to ensure transparency and objectivity in their engagement, monitoring and evaluation as well as to make greater efforts to ensure a geographical balance in the use of qualified

[1] A/58/364.
[2] A/57/747 and Corr.1.

consultants, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

7. *Endorses* the relevant recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services regarding improvement of internal controls in management, accounting and reporting of assets of all United Nations field missions to establish reliable records, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixtieth session;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to codify appropriate procedures for the purchase and utilization of vehicles and other equipment by United Nations field missions to ensure compliance by all missions with the procedures and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixtieth session;

9. *Notes with concern* the contents of paragraph 97 of the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the management and control of United Nations laissez-passer, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the development of appropriate Organization-wide rules, policies and procedures for managing laissez-passer and to report thereon to the General Assembly, as appropriate;

10. *Recalls* paragraph 38 of General Assembly resolution 58/101 B, and takes note of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of the structure and operations of United Nations information centres.[2]

Draft resolution II
Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994 and 54/244 of 23 December 1999,

Having considered the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004,[1]

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

2. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Office;[1]

3. *Notes* the description of the mission of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, as outlined in the annual report, and in this regard stresses that the mission of the Office should be in full conformity with its mandate as approved in General Assembly resolution 48/218 B;

4. *Notes* the information provided by the Office on the economies and savings generated by its recommendations, and requests the Office to explain its guidelines for measuring the impact of such economies and or savings and to report to the General Assembly thereon in its next annual report;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with regard to paragraph 53 of the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, to ensure strict conformity with the highest standards of quality when recruiting staff to fill language posts, in accordance with legislative mandates;

6. *Notes with concern* the findings of the Office on investigations, as reflected in paragraphs 42 to 47 of its annual report, as well as the fact that some of them reflect serious managerial problems and lack of control;

7. *Stresses*, in this regard, the crucial importance of establishing an effective and efficient system of accountability throughout the Secretariat in order to prevent such problems and to make programme managers accountable;

8. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the regional commissions,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the actions taken by the legislative bodies of the regional commissions with regard to the recommendations of the report;

9. *Takes note also* of paragraph 63 of the annual report, relating to the audit of the non-governmental organization accreditation process;

10. *Reiterates*, in the context of paragraphs 8 and 9 above, paragraph 8 of its resolution 54/244, in which it emphasized that the approval, change and discontinuation of legislative mandates are the exclusive prerogatives of intergovernmental legislative bodies;

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[1] See A/59/359.

[2] A/58/785.

11. *Concurs* with the observation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in paragraph 55 of its annual report, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Office continues to provide internal oversight of the entire claims process of the United Nations Compensation Commission and to report regularly thereon in the context of the annual reports of the Office.

United Nations A/59/649

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Agenda item 119

Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B and 54/244

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Denisa **Hutănová** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B and 54/244" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 6th, 9th and 33rd meetings, on 12 and 15 October and 22 December 2004. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/59/SR.6, 9 and 33).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.28

3. At its 33rd meeting, on 22 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B and 54/244" (A/C.5/59/L.28), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Nigeria.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.28 without a vote (see para. 5).

04-66270 (E) 221204

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

5. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B and 54/244

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994 and 54/244 of 23 December 1999,

1. *Decides* to maintain the reporting procedures for the Office of Internal Oversight Services in full compliance with its resolutions 48/218 B and 54/244, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to ensure that:

(a) Annual reports submitted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services to the General Assembly contain the titles and brief summaries of all reports of the Office issued during the year;

(b) Semi-annual reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services contain the titles and brief summaries of all other reports of the Office issued in the reporting period;

(c) Original versions of the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services not submitted to the General Assembly are, upon request, made available to any Member State;

2. *Also decides* that when access to a report would be inappropriate for reasons of confidentiality or the risk of violating the due process rights of individuals involved in Office of Internal Oversight Services investigations, reports may be modified, or withheld in extraordinary circumstances, at the discretion of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, who will provide reasons for this to the requesting party;

3. *Further decides* that reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services should be submitted directly to the General Assembly as submitted by the Office and that the comments of the Secretary-General may be submitted in a separate report;

4. *Affirms* its primary role in the consideration of and action taken on the reports presented to it;

5. *Notes* that no mechanism has been established for the follow-up of Office of Internal Oversight Services recommendations, including those considered by the General Assembly;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of establishing real, effective and efficient mechanisms for responsibility and accountability;

7. *Regrets* that despite previous information provided by the Secretary-General on the establishment of accountability mechanisms, including the accountability panel, such mechanisms are not in place, thereby affecting the efficient and effective functioning of the Organization;

8. *Takes note* of paragraph 129 (b) of the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services[1] and concurs with the view that a high-level follow-up mechanism under the authority of the Secretary-General should be established in the Organization to effectively feed findings and recommendations of the Office, as well as relevant findings of the Joint Inspection Unit and the Board of Auditors, into the executive management processes;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit annually a report under the agenda item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" addressing the measures implemented aimed at strengthening accountability in the Secretariat and the results achieved;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to establish the aforementioned follow-up mechanism as soon as possible and to report to the General Assembly on the results achieved in the context of the report referred to in paragraph 9 above, with specific reference to:

(a) The composition of such a mechanism, including the seniority of the chair and members;

(b) Terms of reference and frequency of meetings;

(c) The inclusion in the mechanism of one or more participants with relevant expertise from United Nations-system oversight bodies;

(d) Reporting procedures;

11. *Reaffirms* the role of the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit as external oversight bodies, and, in this regard, affirms that any external review, audit, inspection, monitoring, evaluation or investigation of the Office can be undertaken only by such bodies or those mandated to do so by the General Assembly;

12. *Also reaffirms* the importance of effective coordination, in the implementation of their respective mandates, between the Joint Inspection Unit, the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services, in order to maximize the use of resources and share experiences, knowledge, best practices and lessons learned;

13. *Stresses* the vital importance of the evaluation function of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and requests the Secretary-General to better reflect the objectives, expected accomplishments and performance indicators related to this function in future biennial programmes and budgetary submissions of the Office;

14. *Reaffirms* its oversight role as well as the role of the Fifth Committee in administrative and budgetary matters;

15. *Notes* paragraph 129 (a) of the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, taking into account the views of external oversight bodies, on how to guarantee the full operational independence of the Office within the context of its resolution 48/218 B;

[1] See A/59/359.

16. *Decides* to evaluate and review at its sixty-fourth session the functions and reporting procedures of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and any other matter which it deems appropriate, and to that end to include in the provisional agenda of that session an item entitled "Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/__".

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Agenda item 114

Human resources management

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Denisa **Hutănová** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Human resources management" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 14th to 17th and 33rd meetings, on 27 to 29 October and 22 December 2004. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/59/14-17 and 33).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Human resources management

Report of the Secretary-General on amendments to the Staff Rules (A/58/283)

Report of the Secretary-General on the composition of the Secretariat (A/58/666)

Report of the Secretary-General on the list of staff of the United Nations Secretariat (A/C.5/58/L.13)

Report of the Secretary-General on measures to prevent discrimination on the basis of nationality, race, gender, religion or language in the United Nations (A/59/211)

Report of the Secretary-General on amendments to the Staff Rules (A/59/213 and Add.1)

04-65944 (E) 221204

Report of the Secretary-General on consultants and individual contractors (A/59/217)

Report of the Secretary-General on the employment of retired former staff (A/59/222)

Report of the Secretary-General on human resources management reform (A/59/263)

Report of the Secretary-General on new contractual arrangements (A/59/263/Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on proposals to improve gender distribution in the Secretariat (A/59/263/Add.2)

Report of the Secretary-General on improvement of equitable geographic representation in the United Nations Secretariat (General Assembly resolution 57/305, para. 29), to include the development of a more robust capability in the Office of Human Resources Management to enable it to reduce the level of underrepresentation and the number of unrepresented Member States (A/59/264)

Comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on staffing of field missions, including the use of 300 and 100 series appointments (A/59/291)

Report of the Secretary-General on the composition of the Secretariat (A/59/299)

Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (A/59/357);

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/59/446)

Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on possible discrimination due to nationality, race, sex, religion and language in recruitment, promotion and placement (A/56/956)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the comments of the Joint Inspection Unit on the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on possible discrimination due to nationality, race, sex, religion and language in recruitment, promotion and placement (A/56/956/Add.1)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the policies and procedures for recruiting Department of Peacekeeping Operations staff (A/58/704)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the follow-up audit of the policies and procedures of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for recruiting international civilian staff for field missions (A/59/152)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the impact of human resources management reform (A/59/253)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on a study on the availability in local labour markets of the skills for which international recruitment for posts in the General Service category now takes place (A/59/388)

Joint Inspection Unit

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the management review of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/59/65-E/2004/48)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the management review of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/59/65/Add.1-E/2004/48/Add.1)

Views of the staff representatives of the United Nations Secretariat

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the views of the staff representatives of the United Nations Secretariat (A/C.5/59/4)

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.30

4. At its 33rd meeting, on 22 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Human resources management" (A/C.5/59/L.30), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Australia.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.30 without a vote (see para. 7).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Yemen, the United States of America and Nigeria.

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Human resources management

The General Assembly,

Recalling Articles 8, 97, 100 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling also its resolutions 49/222 A and B of 23 December 1994 and 20 July 1995, 51/226 of 3 April 1997, 52/219 of 22 December 1997, 52/252 of 8 September 1998, 53/221 of 7 April 1999, 55/258 of 14 June 2001, 57/305 of 15 April 2003 and 58/296 of 18 June 2004, as well as its other relevant resolutions and decisions,

Having considered the relevant reports on human resources management questions submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

I. Human resources management reform

1. *Reaffirms* the principles set out in sections I and II of its resolution 53/221 and section I of its resolution 55/258 concerning human resources management and the role of the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat;

2. *Affirms* that the Office of Human Resources Management shall remain the central authority within the Secretariat for the interpretation and enforcement of the Staff Regulations and Rules, without prejudice to regulation 12.3;

3. *Stresses* the crucial importance of a transparent and timely flow of information from the Secretariat to Member States in matters related to human resources management reform;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General in future reports on mandated human resources management reform to include full information on achievements and the impact of its implementation;

5. *Stresses* that any proposals for changes in the building blocks of reform should be accompanied by transparent information for Member States on those changes;

6. *Recalls* section VII of its resolution 55/258, in which the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to ensure that well-designed mechanisms of accountability are put in place before delegating authority to programme managers;

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[1] A/58/283, A/58/666, A/58/704, A/59/65-E/2004/48 and Add.1, A/59/152, A/59/211, A/59/213, A/59/217, A/59/222, A/59/253, A/59/263 and Add.1 and 2, A/59/264, A/59/291, A/59/299, A/59/357, A/59/388, A/C.5/58/L.13 and A/C.5/59/4.

[2] A/59/446.

7. *Stresses* the need to ensure that adequate mechanisms are in place to ensure the accountability of programme managers for the implementation of human resources policies and the achievement of objectives contained in human resources action plans;

8. *Emphasizes* that effective accountability mechanisms are an integral and essential element of human resources management reform, and requests the Secretary-General to strengthen such mechanisms throughout the Organization;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the effectiveness of human resources action plans for achieving the human resources objectives of the Organization, including with respect to equitable geographic distribution and gender representation, as mandated by the General Assembly, and further requests him to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-first session;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to reconstitute the Accountability Panel so as to strengthen the internal system of accountability, including with respect to human resources policies and objectives, and to ensure that the Panel has the authority necessary to hold programme managers accountable for their performance in achieving the objectives contained in human resources action plans;

11. *Stresses* that the staff selection system must provide transparency and fairness;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of the participation of staff representatives in the work of the central review bodies, and requests the Secretary-General and invites staff representatives to engage in a consultative process with a view to resuming the participation of staff representatives in the work of the central review bodies;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to ensure that the central review bodies discharge fully and effectively their roles in the staff selection system, as foreseen in annex II to the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Human resources management reform"[3] and subsequently approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/258, including by addressing the deficiencies identified in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[4] and to make proposals to amend the terms of reference of the central review bodies as necessary in the light of experience;

14. *Recalls its request* to the Secretary-General contained in section II, paragraph 2, of its resolution 51/226, as reiterated in section IV, paragraph 10, of its resolution 53/221, section VII of its resolution 55/258 and section III of its resolution 57/305, to enhance managerial accountability with respect to human resources management decisions, including imposing sanctions in cases of demonstrated mismanagement of staff and wilful neglect of, or disregard for, established rules and procedures, while safeguarding the right of due process of all staff members, including managers, and requests the Secretary-General to report comprehensively thereon at its sixty-first session;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts, as described in paragraphs 130 to 132 of his report,[5] to report to the General Assembly on the

[3] A/55/253 and Corr.1.
[4] See A/59/253.
[5] A/59/263.

experiences gained in the implementation of such measures and to make additional proposals for action by the Assembly as appropriate;

16. *Notes with concern* paragraph 91 of the report of the Secretary-General,[5] and requests the Secretary-General to reassess the situation;

II. Recruitment and placement

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity serve as the paramount considerations in the employment of staff, with due regard for the principle of equitable geographic distribution, in accordance with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Recognizes* the value of a transparent process of recruitment, placement and promotion in the Organization;

3. *Notes* the proposal of the Secretary-General,[6] on the recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[7] to reduce the time required for advertising a vacancy from 60 to 45 days, and decides to revert to this issue in the context of a comprehensive study addressing all factors contributing to the process of selection, recruitment and placement at its sixty-first session;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to reduce the period required to fill vacancies by addressing all factors contributing to delays in the process of selection, recruitment and placement and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to maintain a system of circulating printed copies of all vacancy announcements, in accordance with its resolution 57/305, for distribution to all delegations, except those which indicate otherwise;

6. *Reaffirms* the need to respect the equality of each of the two working languages of the Secretariat, reaffirms also the use of additional working languages in specific duty stations as mandated, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to ensure that vacancy announcements specify the need for either of the working languages of the Secretariat unless the functions of the post require a specific working language;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the definition of language posts to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session in the context of his report on the composition of the Secretariat;

8. *Expresses its concern* over the deficiencies in the recruitment of international civilian staff in peacekeeping missions as referred to by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in its report,[8] and requests the Secretary-General to make efforts to rectify the situation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

9. *Notes with concern* the range of weaknesses related to the Galaxy support tool identified by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in its report;[4]

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[6] Ibid., para. 189.

[7] A/59/253, para. 103.

[8] See A/59/152.

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to fully develop the Galaxy support tool and make it more efficient and user-friendly for the purpose of efficient recruitment, as embodied in Article 101 of the Charter, and to ensure that all applicants are informed about the final result of their applications in a timely fashion;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the conversion of all printed applications into electronic form upon their submission for inclusion in the Galaxy system and to ensure that those applications are considered in the filling of advertised vacancies, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

12. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue to develop screening mechanisms that ensure that all applications submitted in the Galaxy system are treated fairly, that well-qualified candidates are given due consideration and that keywords outside of the vacancy announcements are not used to exclude well-qualified candidates;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure that Galaxy is available in both of the working languages of the Organization;

14. *Reiterates its requests* to the Secretary-General to inform Member States monthly, through the Internet, through the United Nations public web site and, upon request, in printed form of appointments made;

III. National competitive examination and General Service to Professional examination

1. *Reiterates its decision* that the recruitment of qualified staff from the General Service to the Professional category should be limited to the P-1 and P-2 levels and should be permitted for up to 10 per cent of the appointments at those levels;

2. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to appoint to posts not subject to geographic distribution at the P-2 level up to seven successful candidates from the General Service to Professional examination each year;

3. *Also authorizes* the Secretary-General to appoint to P-2 posts in duty stations with chronically high vacancy rates up to three successful candidates from the General Service to Professional examination each year when no successful candidates from the national competitive examination are available;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make special efforts to appoint to the relevant vacant posts in the Secretariat successful candidates from unrepresented and underrepresented Member States who have passed the national competitive examination;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the expeditious placement in appropriate posts of as many candidates as feasible who have been placed on the roster following the successful completion of national competitive examinations;

6. *Reiterates* paragraph 43 of its resolution 57/305, requests the Secretary-General to apply strictly the relevant administrative instruction for recruitment at the P-3 level, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

IV. Measures to improve equitable geographic distribution

1. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made since 1994 in reducing the number of countries that are unrepresented and underrepresented;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his ongoing efforts to attain equitable geographic distribution in the Secretariat and to ensure as wide a geographic distribution of staff as possible in all main departments and offices of the Secretariat;

3. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General to improve the situation of unrepresented and underrepresented Member States and of those in danger of becoming underrepresented under the system of desirable ranges;

4. *Notes* the low percentage of appointments of staff from unrepresented and underrepresented Member States to posts subject to geographical distribution in 2004;

5. *Notes with concern* the decline of the proportion of nationals of developing countries in posts at the senior and policy-making levels of the Secretariat;

6. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General take all measures necessary to ensure, at the senior and policy-making levels of the Secretariat, equitable representation of Member States, especially those with inadequate representation at those levels, including unrepresented and underrepresented States, in particular developing countries, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and to continue to include relevant information thereon in all future reports on the composition of the Secretariat;

7. *Notes* that the system of geographic ranges was designed to apply to countries rather than regions or groups;

8. *Recalls* section II, paragraph 30, of its resolution 57/305, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General include an analysis of the level of underrepresentation in his next report on the composition of the Secretariat;

9. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, for a trial period of two years during which the procedures would be fully developed, to establish a special roster of candidates from unrepresented and underrepresented Member States, as proposed in paragraphs 21 and 22 of his report,[9] for a number of posts at the P-4 and P-5 levels only, until such Member States are within the desirable ranges, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

10. *Welcomes* the practice of conducting recruitment missions to unrepresented and underrepresented Member States, and requests the Secretary-General to intensify those efforts in order to increase the number of recruits from those Member States after going through the regular recruitment procedures for advertised vacancies;

11. *Reiterates its request* contained in section II, paragraph 29, of its resolution 57/305 that the Secretary-General set specific targets as well as develop a programme for achieving equitable geographical representation;

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[9] A/59/264.

12. *Notes* the number of overrepresented countries under the system of desirable ranges, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the General Assembly with analytical information on this issue in the framework of his report on the composition of the Secretariat;

13. *Reaffirms* that, in accordance with its resolutions 41/206 A of 11 December 1986, 53/221, 55/258 and 57/305, no post should be considered the exclusive preserve of any Member State or group of States, including at the highest levels, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General ensure that, as a general rule, no national of a Member State succeeds a national of that State in a senior post and that there is no monopoly on senior posts by nationals of any State or group of States, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

V. System of equitable geographic distribution

1. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General, as approved in its resolution 42/220 A of 21 December 1987, fully reach the level of posts subject to geographical distribution, which currently stands at 2,783;

2. *Also reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General submit the report requested in section IX, paragraph 2, of its resolution 57/305, which will include an assessment of the issues related to possible changes in the number of posts subject to the system of geographical distribution, and requests the Secretary-General to submit the report to the General Assembly by the second part of its resumed fifty-ninth session;

3. *Recalls* section IX, paragraph 1, of its resolution 57/305, and decides to revert to this subject at its sixty-first session;

4. *Requests* the Board of Auditors to conduct an audit of the implementation of the principle of equitable geographic representation in the Secretariat at all levels, as set out in relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and to verify the application of established measures of transparency and accountability at all levels of the selection, recruitment and placement process in compliance with relevant resolutions of the Assembly;

5. *Also requests* the Board of Auditors to submit its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session for consideration and action;

VI. Gender representation

1. *Reaffirms* the goal of 50/50 gender distribution in all categories of posts within the United Nations system, especially at the senior and policy-making levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101 of the Charter, and regrets that progress towards attaining this goal has been slow;

2. *Expresses concern* at the continuing low proportion of women in the Secretariat, in particular the low proportion among them of women from developing countries, especially at the senior levels, and stresses that the continuing lack of representation or underrepresentation of women from certain countries, in particular from developing countries, should be taken into account and that those women

should be accorded equal opportunities in the recruitment process, in full conformity with relevant resolutions;

3. *Notes with concern* that, in posts subject to the system of desirable ranges, 26 women from developing countries were recruited between 1 July 2003 and 30 June 2004 among the 86 women appointed during that period;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to increase his efforts to attain and monitor the goal of gender parity in the Secretariat, in particular at senior levels, and in this context to ensure that women, especially those from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, are appropriately represented within the Secretariat, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of attaining this goal, to develop and implement recruitment targets, time frames for meeting those targets and accountability measures;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to clarify the role of departmental focal points, including in the context of the staff selection system, and their participation in the development and monitoring of the departmental human resource action plans;

7. *Encourages* Member States to support the efforts of the Secretary-General by identifying more women candidates and encouraging them to apply for appointment to positions in the Secretariat and by creating awareness among their nationals, particularly women, of vacancies in the Secretariat;

VII. Post structure

Requests the Secretary-General to make proposals to the General Assembly, as appropriate, to reform the post structure with a view to considering a possible increase in the proportion of P-2 and P-3 posts, taking advantage of the opportunity provided by the retirement of many senior staff in the coming years;

VIII. Mobility

1. *Reaffirms* section V of its resolution 55/258, as well as the segment on mobility contained in section II of its resolution 57/305, and notes its previous requests to the Secretary-General in this regard;

2. *Stresses* in this regard that when implementing mobility policies, the Secretary-General should ensure that:

(a) Mobility does not negatively affect the continuity and the quality of services and the institutional memory and capacity of the Organization;

(b) Mobility does not lead to the transfer or abolition of posts as a result of vacancies;

(c) Mobility has a positive impact in filling existing high vacancy rates at some United Nations duty stations and regional commissions;

(d) There is a clear differentiation between mobility within duty stations and mobility across duty stations and that the latter is a more important factor in career development;

(e) Mobility is encouraged for all posts in the Professional and higher categories;

3. *Notes* that the implementation of mobility policies, while recognizing their anticipated positive effects, may also give rise to problems and challenges that should be addressed;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to ensure that mobility is not used as an instrument of coercion against staff and to ensure that appropriate monitoring and accountability measures are in place;

5. *Notes* the measures to facilitate the implementation of mobility policies set out in paragraph 85 of the report of the Secretary-General,[5] and requests the Secretary-General to develop a strategic plan with indicators, benchmarks, time lines and clear criteria for the implementation of mobility policies and to report thereon, including with information on the financial implications, to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session for its consideration and action in order to solve any problems;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to consult with staff in the development of mobility policies;

7. *Requests* the International Civil Service Commission, within its mandate, to keep under review the question of mobility in the common system, including its implications for career development, and to make recommendations to the General Assembly, as appropriate, in the context of its annual reports;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider the use of incentives with a view to encouraging staff to move to duty stations with chronically high vacancy rates;

9. *Reiterates* section II, paragraph 51, of its resolution 57/305, in which the General Assembly encouraged the Secretary-General to expedite, as appropriate, agreements between the Secretariat and the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies for all staff levels in relation to mobility, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-first session;

10. *Invites* host countries, as appropriate, to review their policies for granting work permits to spouses of United Nations staff;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to explore ways of assisting spouses to find employment opportunities, in consultation with host Governments where necessary, including by taking measures to expedite the issuance of work permits;

12. *Acknowledges* that mobility needs to be supported through greater efforts to improve conditions of life and work at the various duty stations;

IX. Contractual arrangements

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on contractual arrangements,[10] and decides to revert to the issue at its sixtieth session in the context of its consideration of the report of the International Civil Service Commission on contractual arrangements with a view to taking a decision;

[10] A/59/263/Add.1.

X. Use of appointments under the 100 and 300 series of the Staff Rules in the staffing of field missions

1. *Decides* to continue to suspend the application of the four-year maximum limit for appointments of limited duration under the 300 series of the Staff Rules in peacekeeping operations until 30 June 2005;

2. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, bearing in mind paragraph 1 above, to reappoint under the 100 series of the Staff Rules those mission staff whose service under 300-series contracts has reached the four-year limit by 31 December 2004 or later, pending a decision by the General Assembly, provided that their functions have been reviewed and found necessary and their performance has been confirmed as fully satisfactory, and requests him to report thereon to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed fifty-ninth session;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit proposals for which functions are relevant for reappointment under the 100 series for consideration and action by the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed fifty-ninth session;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue the practice of using 300 series contracts as the primary instrument for the appointment of new mission staff, pending a decision by the General Assembly on the report requested above;

5. *Requests* the International Civil Service Commission, as a matter of high priority, to review the contractual instruments available for the employment of common system staff in the field, including the practice of conversion to the 100 series from other contractual arrangements, and requests the Commission to present an analysis to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session of the desirability and feasibility of harmonizing conditions of service in the field, including at non-family duty stations, and to provide full details of the financial implications;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session a comprehensive report with proposals for conditions of field service addressing, inter alia, the feasibility and desirability of conditions of service distinct to peacekeeping operations and the feasibility and desirability of harmonized conditions of field service in the United Nations;

7. *Recognizes* the authority of the Secretary-General to assign and deploy staff according to the operational needs of the Organization, and requests him to limit the assignment of staff, in particular General Service staff, from Headquarters and other established offices to field missions unless required by operational necessity or the unavailability of requisite skills in local labour markets;

XI. Consultants and individual contractors

1. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraphs 59 to 61 of its report,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the use of consultants and individual contractors, including actions taken to improve the monitoring capacity of the Office of Human Resources Management on this issue;

2. *Reaffirms* that consultants shall not perform functions of staff members of the Organization or have any representative or supervisory responsibility;

3. *Reiterates* that the Secretary-General should refrain from using consultants to carry out functions assigned to established posts and that consultants should be hired only in strict accordance with existing rules and relevant General Assembly resolutions and where expertise is not available within the Organization;

4. *Also reiterates* that in areas where consultants are frequently hired for a period of more than one year, the Secretary-General should submit proposals, where necessary, for the establishment of posts and should report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

XII. Employment of retired former staff

1. *Notes with concern* the increased use of retired former staff members in substantive areas and in decision-making positions;

2. *Also notes with concern* that the lack of proper succession planning has a negative impact on the rejuvenation of the Organization and on attaining core human resources targets;

3. *Endorses* the views expressed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraphs 63 and 65 of its report;[2]

4. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure that the employment of retired former staff has no adverse effects on the career planning and mobility of other United Nations staff members;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to have recourse to the employment of retired former staff only if the operational requirements of the Organization cannot be met by existing staff;

6. *Stresses* that the hiring of retired former staff should be on an exceptional basis, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to fill vacant posts at senior and decision-making levels through the established staff selection process;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the use of retired former staff and to develop clear criteria for the selection of the retired former staff, in particular in the Professional category;

XIII. Study of availability of skills in local labour markets

Having considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the availability in local labour markets of the skills for which international recruitment for General Service staff takes place,[11]

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to conduct a study on the availability of skills in local labour markets for which international recruitment for the General Service staff takes place and, drawing on the findings, to reassess the determination made in 1975 that recruitment from outside the area of the duty station is necessary to staff the text-processing units, bearing in mind the need for the highest standards of quality relevant to the language function, and to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

[11] See A/59/388.

2. *Decides* to revert to its consideration of the issue and of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services[11] at its sixtieth session in the context of its consideration of the report requested in paragraph 1 above;

XIV. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on its management review of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[12] and notes the observations of the Secretary-General on the report and the actions of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to implement the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit;[13]

2. *Emphasizes* that recruitment in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights should be done in full consultation with and under the guidance of the Office of Human Resources Management, consistent with the provisions of the present resolution and other relevant legislative mandates;

3. *Notes* that the Joint Inspection Unit will submit a follow-up report on this issue to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session for consideration under relevant agenda items;

XV. Measures to prevent discrimination

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on measures to prevent discrimination on the basis of nationality, race, sex, religion or language in the United Nations,[14] and requests him to develop further measures, as necessary, in cooperation with the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Joint Inspection Unit, to prevent such discrimination, in accordance with the principles of the Charter and the provisions of the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

2. *Decides* to revert to the consideration of the report of the Secretary-General[14] in the context of the agenda item entitled "Administration of justice" during the first part of its resumed fifty-ninth session;

XVI. Staff-management consultations

1. *Takes note* of the views expressed by staff representatives in the Fifth Committee, stresses the importance of a meaningful dialogue on human resources management issues between staff and management, and calls upon both parties to intensify efforts to overcome differences and to resume the consultative process;

2. *Reiterates* its requests that the Secretary-General take into account the views of staff representatives, in accordance with article VIII of the Staff Regulations and Rules and resolution 35/213 of 17 December 1980;

XVII. Other matters

1. *Stresses* that all administrative issuances of the Secretary-General related to the implementation of its resolutions a nd decisions shall be in full compliance

[12] See A/59/65-E/2004/48.
[13] A/59/65/Add.1-E/2004/48/Add.1.
[14] A/59/211.

with such resolutions and decisions and shall be reported to the General Assembly in conformity with the established regulations, rules and procedures;

2. *Reaffirms* that, in accordance with staff regulation 1.2, staff members shall not be actively associated with the management of, or hold a financial interest in, any profit-making, business or other concern if it were possible for the staff member or the profit-making, business or other concern to benefit from such association or financial interest by reason of his or her position with the United Nations;

XVIII. Reporting

Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-first session consolidated reports, as appropriate, on the results of the implementation of the present resolution.

United Nations A/59/651

General Assembly

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Agenda item 109

Programme planning

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Denisa **Hutănová** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Programme planning" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 22nd, 23rd and 33rd meetings, on 9 and 11 November and 22 December 2004. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/59/SR.22, 23 and 33).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007, part one (A/59/6 (Part One) and Corr.1) and part two (A/59/6 (Prog. 1-9, 10/Rev.1, 11-22, 22/Corr.1 and 23-26));

(b) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-fourth session;[1]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on priority-setting (A/59/87);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/59/69);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/59/79);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/59/16).

04-66276 (E) 231204

(f) Letter dated 4 November 2004 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/59/14);

(g) Letter dated 9 November 2004 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/59/15);

(h) Letter dated 16 November 2004 from the Acting President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/59/17);

(i) Letter dated 20 December 2004 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/59/26).

4. At the 22nd meeting, on 9 November 2004, the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination introduced the report of that Committee (see A/C.5/59/SR.22).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.20

5. At its 33rd meeting, on 22 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Programme planning" (A/C.5/59/L.20), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

6. At the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) At the end of the third preambular paragraph, the words "and concerning programme 19, Human rights;" were inserted;

(b) After the third preambular paragraph, a new preambular paragraph was inserted, reading:

> "*Emphasizing* the role of the plenary and the Main Committees in reviewing and taking action on the appropriate recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination relevant to their work, in accordance with regulation 4.10 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programmatic Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation",

and operative paragraph 2 was deleted;

(c) In operative paragraph 5 (formerly paragraph 6), before subparagraph (a), the word "considerations" was replaced by the word "criteria";

(d) In operative paragraph 10 (formerly paragraph 11), after the words "Trade and development", the words "those regarding programme 19, Human rights" were inserted;

(e) After operative paragraph 25 (formerly paragraph 26), the heading "Other matters" was replaced by the heading "Other conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination";

(f) Before operative paragraph 28 (formerly paragraph 29), the heading "Other matters" was inserted.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran also made a statement.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.20, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 9).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

9. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Programme planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 A of 20 December 1983, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 55/234 of 23 December 2000, 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 57/282 of 20 December 2002 and 58/268 and 58/269 of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-fourth session,[1] the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007: part one: plan outline[2] and part two: biennial programme plan[3] and the reports of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2002-2003[4] and on priority-setting,[5] as well as the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives,[6]

Appreciating the letters from the President of the General Assembly transmitting the recommendations of the First Committee concerning programme 3, Disarmament,[7] the Second Committee concerning programme 10, Trade and development[8] and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) concerning programme 23, Public information,[9] and concerning programme 19, Human rights,[10]

Emphasizing the role of the plenary and the Main Committees in reviewing and taking action on the appropriate recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination relevant to their work, in accordance with regulation 4.10 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programmatic Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,[11]

Strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

Recalling its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on a trial basis, a strategic

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/59/16).
[2] A/59/6 (Part One) and Corr.1.
[3] A/59/6 (Prog. 1-9, 10/Rev.1, 11-22, 22/Corr.1 and 23-26).
[4] A/59/69.
[5] A/59/87.
[6] See A/59/79.
[7] A/C.5/59/17.
[8] A/C.5/59/15.
[9] A/C.5/59/14.
[10] A/C.5/59/26.
[11] ST/SGB/2000/8.

framework, which would comprise in one document a plan outline, reflecting the longer-term objectives of the Organization, and a biennial programme plan, to cover two years,

1. *Notes* that the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007 constitutes the first proposal presented after the approval of its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003;

2. *Also notes* that the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fourth session recommended that the General Assembly review part one, plan outline, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007;[12]

3. *Recalls* its decision in resolution 58/269 to review, with a view to taking a final decision at its sixty-second session, the format, content and duration of the strategic framework, including the necessity of maintaining part one;

4. *Decides*, in view of the differences between Member States on the content of part one: plan outline of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007, to take no decision on part one;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare and propose a plan outline, reflecting the longer-term objectives of the Organization, and a biennial programme plan in the context of the strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009, based, inter alia, on the following principal criteria:

(a) The longer-term objectives consistent with all the relevant legislative mandates in all areas of the activities of the United Nations;

(b) Outcomes of the intergovernmental conferences and summits;

(c) Inputs from relevant programme managers;

(d) Use of intergovernmentally agreed terms and expressions;

6. *Invites* the Committee for Programme and Coordination to consider at its forty-fifth session additional guidelines, if any, for the preparation of the plan outline;

7. *Decides* that the priorities for the period 2006-2007 will be the following:

(a) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(b) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

[12] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/59/16), para. 65.

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 based on the above priorities and the biennial programme plan as adopted in the present resolution;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to issue in one document, before the forty-fifth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, only the priorities and the biennial programme plan, as adopted in the present resolution;

10. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 contained in the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-fourth session,[1] those of the First Committee regarding programme 3, Disarmament,[7] those of the Second Committee regarding programme 10, Trade and development,[8] those regarding programme 19, Human rights[10] and those of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) regarding programme 23, Public information,[9] as reflected in the annex, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to propose a relevant indicator of achievement for programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, section A, Conference management, New York, subprogramme 4, Meetings and publishing services, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007;

12. *Notes* that the overall system of the administration of justice in the Secretariat will be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make recommendations by the end of its fifty-ninth session on how to ensure the ongoing discharge of key functions of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat at Headquarters as defined by the Committee for Programme and Coordination;

Programme performance report

14. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2002-2003;[4]

15. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination regarding the report of the Secretary-General;

16. *Stresses* that, while future reports on programme performance will be more aligned with the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, information on the outputs shall continue to be provided in the reports;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that future programme performance reports provide more detailed information on the reasons for less-than-full implementation of programmed outputs, or the postponement and termination thereof;

Evaluation

18. *Recalls* its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, in which it emphasized the need to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation system;

19. *Re-emphasizes* the importance of the contribution of the relevant intergovernmental bodies, in particular the Main Committees of the General Assembly, in reviewing the relevant recommendations on evaluation;

20. *Reiterates* section III of its resolution 57/282 of 20 December 2002 on evaluation;

21. *Requests* the General Committee to take fully into account the above-mentioned resolutions in the allocation of agenda items to the Main Committees;

22. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives, on in-depth evaluation of the programme on public administration finance and development, on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the in-depth evaluation of sustainable development and on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the in-depth evaluation of the population programme, and on the further development of topics for a pilot thematic evaluation;

Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to schedule the organizational session of the forty-fifth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as soon as possible at the resumed fifty-ninth session of the Fifth Committee;

24. *Recalls* paragraph 18 of its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, in which the General Assembly invited the Committee for Programme and Coordination to submit, at its forty-fourth session, recommendations on improving its working methods;

25. *Welcomes* the decision of the Committee for Programme and Coordination to revert to the agenda item entitled "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate", as a matter of priority, at the beginning of its forty-fifth session;

Other conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

26. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination regarding the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2003,[13] and its conclusions and recommendations regarding the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[14]

27. *Also endorses* the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the report of the Secretary-General on priority-setting;[5]

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[13] E/2004/67.

[14] E/AC.51/2004/6.

Other matters

28. *Invites* the Committee for Programme and Coordination to take appropriate measures to ensure that the discussion sections of the report of the Committee are drafted so as to reflect fully the opinions expressed by delegations.

Annex

Changes to the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 reflecting the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Programme and Coordination at its forty-fourth session[1] and additional modifications

Programme 1
General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

Overall orientation

In the second sentence of paragraph 1.3, after "the control and limitation of documents," add "in accordance with legislative mandates,".

A. Conference management, New York

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Delete indicator of achievement (b) (ii).

A, B, C and D. Conference management, New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi

Subprogramme 2
Planning, development and coordination of conference services

Under *Strategy*, replace the text of paragraphs 1.5 (e), 1.7 (c), 1.10 (e) and 1.13 (c) of sections A, B, C and D, respectively, with the following: "Upgrading, pursuant to the managerial responsibilities of the Secretary-General, the technological capacity in conference services in line with new developments in technology, in accordance with legislative mandates, while keeping the General Assembly aware of new technologies that can be issued in the Organization to achieve timeliness and better quality of services provided".

At the end of expected accomplishment (b), add "where feasible and more cost-effective, without adversely affecting the quality of services provided".

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Under *Strategy*, in paragraphs 1.7 (b), 1.9 (b), 1.12 (b) and 1.15 (b) of sections A, B, C and D, respectively, after "documentation publishing", add "to achieve better quality, and timeliness".

Programme 21
Palestine refugees

Overall orientation

After the first sentence of paragraph 21.2, add the following sentence: "In its resolution 3331 B (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, the General Assembly decided that, with effect from 1 January 1975, the expenses relating to the emoluments of international staff in the service of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, which would otherwise have been charged to voluntary contributions, should be financed by the regular budget of the United Nations for the duration of the Agency's mandate."

Programme 25
Internal oversight

Overall orientation

Replace the text of the first sentence of paragraph 25.1 with the following: "The overall purpose of the programme is to enhance effectiveness in the implementation of all programmes through continually improved internal control mechanisms within the Organization. The mandate for the programme derives from the responsibility of the Secretary-General as the chief administrative officer of the United Nations, entrusted to him under Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations."

Amend paragraph 25.3 as follows: "The Office assists Member States and the Organization in protecting its assets, and ensuring the compliance of programme activities with resolutions, regulations, rules and policies, and the more efficient and effective delivery of the Organization's activities; preventing and detecting fraud, waste, abuse, malfeasance or mismanagement; and improving the delivery of the Organization's programmes and activities to enable it to achieve better results by determining all factors affecting the efficient and effective implementation of programmes."

In the second sentence of paragraph 25.4, replace "ensure" with "assist".

Revise the second sentence of paragraph 25.5 as follows: "In addition, the Office assists the Organization in achieving better results by determining the factors affecting the efficient and effective implementation of programmes in accordance with, inter alia, the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992."

Subprogramme 1
Internal audit

Replace the objective of the Organization with the following: "To ensure efficient and effective implementation and management of programmes, activities and operations by programme managers, in accordance with the relevant legislative mandates, regulations and rules."

Revise expected accomplishment (c) as follows: "Improved levels of efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of programmes, and enhanced accountability by programme managers."

Subprogramme 2
Monitoring, evaluation and consulting

Replace the objective of the Organization with the following: "To strengthen programme implementation by monitoring the delivery of the programmes using results-based management methods as well as their outputs and to determine whether they are adequate, timely and in accordance with the mandates, whether they address effectively the objectives of the programmes and whether the resources are used efficiently."

Subprogramme 3
Investigations

Replace the objective of the Organization with the following: "To ensure compliance with regulations and rules of the United Nations and to minimize the occurrence of fraud, violations of regulations and rules of the United Nations, mismanagement, misconduct, waste of resources and abuse of authority."

Amend expected accomplishment (a) as follows: "Better protection of the Organization's assets and resources and greater compliance with the Organization's rules and regulations."

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Programme planning

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Denisa **Hutănová** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Programme planning" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 22nd, 23rd and 33rd meetings, on 9 and 11 November and 22 December 2004. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/59/SR.22, 23 and 33).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007, part one (A/59/6 (Part One) and Corr.1) and part two (A/59/6 (Prog. 1-9, 10/Rev.1, 11-22, 22/Corr.1 and 23-26));

(b) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-fourth session;[1]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on priority-setting (A/59/87);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/59/69);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/59/79);

* Reissued for technical reasons.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/59/16).

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(f) Letter dated 4 November 2004 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/59/14);

(g) Letter dated 9 November 2004 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/59/15);

(h) Letter dated 16 November 2004 from the Acting President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/59/17);

(i) Letter dated 20 December 2004 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/59/26).

4. At the 22nd meeting, on 9 November 2004, the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination introduced the report of that Committee (see A/C.5/59/SR.22).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.20

5. At its 33rd meeting, on 22 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Programme planning" (A/C.5/59/L.20), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

6. At the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) At the end of the third preambular paragraph, the words "and concerning programme 19, Human rights;" were inserted;

(b) Operative paragraph 2 was moved to follow the third preambular paragraph and precede the heading "Strategic framework for the period 2006-2007";

(c) In operative paragraph 5 (formerly paragraph 6), before subparagraph (a), the word "considerations" was replaced by the word "criteria";

(d) In operative paragraph 10 (formerly paragraph 11), after the words "Trade and development", the words "those regarding programme 19, Human rights" were inserted;

(e) After operative paragraph 25 (formerly paragraph 26), the heading "Other matters" was replaced by the heading "Other conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination";

(f) Before operative paragraph 28 (formerly paragraph 29), the heading "Other matters" was inserted.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran also made a statement.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.20, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 9).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

9. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Programme planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 A of 20 December 1983, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 55/234 of 23 December 2000, 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 57/282 of 20 December 2002 and 58/268 and 58/269 of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-fourth session,[1] the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007: part one: plan outline[2] and part two: biennial programme plan[3] and the reports of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2002-2003[4] and on priority-setting,[5] as well as the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives,[6]

Appreciating the letters from the President of the General Assembly transmitting the recommendations of the First Committee concerning programme 3, Disarmament,[7] the Second Committee concerning programme 10, Trade and development[8] and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) concerning programme 23, Public information,[9] and concerning programme 19, Human rights,[10]

Emphasizes the role of the plenary and the Main Committees in reviewing and taking action on the appropriate recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination relevant to their work, in accordance with regulation 4.10 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programmatic Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;[11]

Strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

Recalling its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on a trial basis, a strategic framework, which would comprise in one document a plan outline, reflecting the

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/59/16).
[2] A/59/6 (Part One) and Corr.1.
[3] A/59/6 (Prog. 1-9, 10/Rev.1, 11-22, 22/Corr.1 and 23-26).
[4] A/59/69.
[5] A/59/87.
[6] See A/59/79.
[7] A/C.5/59/17.
[8] A/C.5/59/15.
[9] A/C.5/59/14.
[10] A/C.5/59/26.
[11] ST/SGB/2000/8.

longer-term objectives of the Organization, and a biennial programme plan, to cover two years,

1. *Notes* that the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007 constitutes the first proposal presented after the approval of its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003;

2. *Also notes* that the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fourth session recommended that the General Assembly review part one, plan outline, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007;[12]

3. *Recalls* its decision in resolution 58/269 to review, with a view to taking a final decision at its sixty-second session, the format, content and duration of the strategic framework, including the necessity of maintaining part one;

4. *Decides*, in view of the differences between Member States on the content of part one: plan outline of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007, to take no decision on part one;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare and propose a plan outline, reflecting the longer-term objectives of the Organization, and a biennial programme plan in the context of the strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009, based, inter alia, on the following principal criteria:

(a) The longer-term objectives consistent with all the relevant legislative mandates in all areas of the activities of the United Nations;

(b) Outcomes of the intergovernmental conferences and summits;

(c) Inputs from relevant programme managers;

(d) Use of intergovernmentally agreed terms and expressions;

6. *Invites* the Committee for Programme and Coordination to consider at its forty-fifth session additional guidelines, if any, for the preparation of the plan outline;

7. *Decides* that the priorities for the period 2006-2007 will be the following:

(a) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(b) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

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[12] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/59/16), para. 65.

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 based on the above priorities and the biennial programme plan as adopted in the present resolution;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to issue in one document, before the forty-fifth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, only the priorities and the biennial programme plan, as adopted in the present resolution;

10. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 contained in the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-fourth session,[1] those of the First Committee regarding programme 3, Disarmament,[7] those of the Second Committee regarding programme 10, Trade and development,[8] those regarding programme 19, Human rights[10] and those of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) regarding programme 23, Public information,[9] as reflected in the annex, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to propose a relevant indicator of achievement for programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, section A, Conference management, New York, subprogramme 4, Meetings and publishing services, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007;

12. *Notes* that the overall system of the administration of justice in the Secretariat will be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make recommendations by the end of its fifty-ninth session on how to ensure the ongoing discharge of key functions of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat at Headquarters as defined by the Committee for Programme and Coordination;

Programme performance report

14. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2002-2003;[4]

15. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination regarding the report of the Secretary-General;

16. *Stresses* that, while future reports on programme performance will be more aligned with the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, information on the outputs shall continue to be provided in the reports;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that future programme performance reports provide more detailed information on the reasons for less-than-full implementation of programmed outputs, or the postponement and termination thereof;

Evaluation

18. *Recalls* its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, in which it emphasized the need to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation system;

19. *Re-emphasizes* the importance of the contribution of the relevant intergovernmental bodies, in particular the Main Committees of the General Assembly, in reviewing the relevant recommendations on evaluation;

20. *Reiterates* section III of its resolution 57/282 of 20 December 2002 on evaluation;

21. *Requests* the General Committee to take fully into account the above-mentioned resolutions in the allocation of agenda items to the Main Committees;

22. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives, on in-depth evaluation of the programme on public administration finance and development, on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the in-depth evaluation of sustainable development and on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the in-depth evaluation of the population programme, and on the further development of topics for a pilot thematic evaluation;

Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to schedule the organizational session of the forty-fifth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as soon as possible at the resumed fifty-ninth session of the Fifth Committee;

24. *Recalls* paragraph 18 of its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, in which the General Assembly invited the Committee for Programme and Coordination to submit, at its forty-fourth session, recommendations on improving its working methods;

25. *Welcomes* the decision of the Committee for Programme and Coordination to revert to the agenda item entitled "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate", as a matter of priority, at the beginning of its forty-fifth session;

Other conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

26. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination regarding the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2003,[13] and its conclusions and recommendations regarding the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[14]

27. *Also endorses* the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the report of the Secretary-General on priority-setting;[5]

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[13] E/2004/67.

[14] E/AC.51/2004/6.

Other matters

28. *Invites* the Committee for Programme and Coordination to take appropriate measures to ensure that the discussion sections of the report of the Committee are drafted so as to reflect fully the opinions expressed by delegations.

Annex

Changes to the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 reflecting the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Programme and Coordination at its forty-fourth session[1] and additional modifications

Programme 1
General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

Overall orientation

In the second sentence of paragraph 1.3, after "the control and limitation of documents," add "in accordance with legislative mandates,".

A. Conference management, New York

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Delete indicator of achievement (b) (ii).

A, B, C and D. Conference management, New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi

Subprogramme 2
Planning, development and coordination of conference services

Under *Strategy*, replace the text of paragraphs 1.5 (e), 1.7 (c), 1.10 (e) and 1.13 (c) of sections A, B, C and D, respectively, with the following: "Upgrading, pursuant to the managerial responsibilities of the Secretary-General, the technological capacity in conference services in line with new developments in technology, in accordance with legislative mandates, while keeping the General Assembly aware of new technologies that can be issued in the Organization to achieve timeliness and better quality of services provided".

At the end of expected accomplishment (b), add "where feasible and more cost-effective, without adversely affecting the quality of services provided".

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Under *Strategy*, in paragraphs 1.7 (b), 1.9 (b), 1.12 (b) and 1.15 (b) of sections A, B, C and D, respectively, after "documentation publishing", add "to achieve better quality, and timeliness"

Programme 21
Palestine refugees

Overall orientation

After the first sentence of paragraph 21.2, add the following sentence: "In its resolution 3331 B (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, the General Assembly decided that, with effect from 1 January 1975, the expenses relating to the emoluments of international staff in the service of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, which would otherwise have been charged to voluntary contributions, should be financed by the regular budget of the United Nations for the duration of the Agency's mandate."

Programme 25
Internal oversight

Overall orientation

Replace the text of the first sentence of paragraph 25.1 with the following: "The overall purpose of the programme is to enhance effectiveness in the implementation of all programmes through continually improved internal control mechanisms within the Organization. The mandate for the programme derives from the responsibility of the Secretary-General as the chief administrative officer of the United Nations, entrusted to him under Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations."

Amend paragraph 25.3 as follows: "The Office assists Member States and the Organization in protecting its assets, and ensuring the compliance of programme activities with resolutions, regulations, rules and policies, and the more efficient and effective delivery of the Organization's activities: preventing and detecting fraud, waste, abuse, malfeasance or mismanagement; and improving the delivery of the Organization's programmes and activities to enable it to achieve better results by determining all factors affecting the efficient and effective implementation of programmes."

In the second sentence of paragraph 25.4, replace "ensure" with "assist".

Revise the second sentence of paragraph 25.5 as follows: "In addition, the Office assists the Organization in achieving better results by determining the factors affecting the efficient and effective implementation of programmes in accordance with, inter alia, the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992."

Subprogramme 1
Internal audit

Replace the objective of the Organization with the following: "To ensure efficient and effective implementation and management of programmes, activities and operations by programme managers, in accordance with the relevant legislative mandates, regulations and rules."

Revise expected accomplishment (c) as follows: "Improved levels of efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of programmes, and enhanced accountability by programme managers."

Subprogramme 2
Monitoring, evaluation and consulting

Replace the objective of the Organization with the following: "To strengthen programme implementation by monitoring the delivery of the programmes using results-based management methods as well as their outputs and to determine whether they are adequate, timely and in accordance with the mandates, whether they address effectively the objectives of the programmes and whether the resources are used efficiently."

Subprogramme 3
Investigations

Replace the objective of the Organization with the following: "To ensure compliance with regulations and rules of the United Nations and to minimize the occurrence of fraud, violations of regulations and rules of the United Nations, mismanagement, misconduct, waste of resources and abuse of authority."

Amend expected accomplishment (a) as follows: "Better protection of the Organization's assets and resources and greater compliance with the Organization's rules and regulations."

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Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Denisa **Hutănová** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 29th and 33rd meetings, on 13 and 22 December 2004. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/59/SR.29 and 33).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/59/415) and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/59/600).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.29

4. At the 33rd meeting, on 22 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2006-2007" (A/C.5/59/L.29), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Austria.

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5. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee orally revised the draft resolution by, in paragraph 6, replacing the words "a preliminary estimate of ___ million dollars" with the words "a preliminary estimate of $3,621,900,000", and, in paragraph 10, replacing the words "namely, at ___ million dollars" with the words "namely, at $27,200,000".

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.29 as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 9).

B. Draft decision A/C.5/59/L.31

7. At its 33rd meeting, on 22 December, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Questions deferred for future consideration" (A/C.5/59/L.31), submitted by the Chairman.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/59/L.31 without a vote (see para. 10).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

9. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2006-2007

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit in off-budget years an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Reaffirming also section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming further rule 153 of its rules of procedure,

Recalling its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2006-2007[1] and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

2. *Reaffirms* that the proposed programme budget outline shall contain an indication of the following:

(a) A preliminary estimate of resources needed to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;

3. *Also reaffirms* that the budget outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium and promote greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process, thereby facilitating the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;

4. *Further reaffirms* that the budget proposals of the Secretary-General should reflect resource levels commensurate with mandates for their full, efficient and effective implementation;

5. *Notes* that the budget outline is a preliminary estimate of resources;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 on the basis of a preliminary estimate of $3,621,900,000 at revised 2004-2005 rates;

[1] A/59/415.

[2] See A/59/600.

7. *Decides* that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 shall contain provisions for recosting on the basis of the existing methodology;

8. *Decides also* that the priorities for the biennium 2006-2007 shall be the following:

(a) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(b) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of his preliminary indicative estimates contained in the proposed budget outline, to reflect the priorities outlined in paragraph 8 above when presenting the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007;

10. *Decides* that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate, namely, at $27,200,000, that this amount shall be in addition to the overall level of the preliminary estimate and that it shall be used in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

10. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Questions deferred for future consideration

The General Assembly decides to defer to its resumed session consideration of the following agenda items and related documents:

Item 108
Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

(a) Second annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan (A/59/441);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on plans for three additional conference rooms and viable solutions for allowing natural light into the rooms (A/58/556);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on viable options to ensure sufficient parking space (A/58/712);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of possible funding arrangements for the capital master plan (A/58/729);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on cooperation with the city and state of New York related to the capital master plan (A/58/779);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of Auditors on the capital master plan for the biennium ended 31 December 2003 (A/59/161);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the United Nations capital master plan for the period August 2003 through July 2004 (A/59/420);

(h) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/59/556);

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on conditions of service and compensation for members of the International Court of Justice, judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, ad litem judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and ad litem judges for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (A/C.5/59/2 and Corr.1);

(j) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/59/557);

Item 120
Administration of justice at the United Nations

(k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the management review of the appeals process and measures to shorten the period for the disposal of cases and

procedures related to the Joint Appeals Board, the Panel of Counsel, the Administrative Law Unit and the secretariats of the Joint Appeals Board and the Joint Disciplinary Committee (A/59/408);

(l) Report of the Secretary-General on the administration of justice in the Secretariat (A/59/449);

(m) Report of the Secretary-General on the role and work of the Panels on Discrimination and Other Grievances (A/59/414);

(n) Annual report on the outcome of the work of the Joint Appeals Board during 2001 and 2002 (A/58/300);

(o) Report of the Secretary-General on the administration of justice in the Secretariat: outcome of the work of the Joint Appeals Board during 2002 and 2003 (A/59/70);

(p) Comprehensive report of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal on its activities (A/58/680);

(q) Letter dated 18 November 2003 from the President of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/58/16);

(r) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Administration of justice: harmonization of the statutes of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and the International Labour Organization Administrative Tribunal" (A/59/280 and Corr.1);

(s) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Administration of justice: harmonization of the statutes of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and the International Labour Organization Administrative Tribunal" (A/59/280/Add.1);

(t) Report of the Secretary-General on the possibility of the financial independence of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal from the Office of Legal Affairs (A/59/78);

(u) Note by the Secretary-General on compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal (A/C.5/59/12).